

Franklin J. Rooks Jr., Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 309562
Jared A. Jacobson, Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 201382
Jacobson & Rooks, LLC
525 Route 73 North
Suite 104
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 874-8999
(856) 494-1707*fax*

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

GEORGE GOODRITZ	:	No.
	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
PHILADELPHIA SANSOM, L.P.	:	
	:	
and	:	
SP PLUS CORPORATION	:	COMPLAINT
	:	
Defendants	:	

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

George Goodritz (the “Plaintiff”), by and through his counsel, brings this lawsuit against Philadelphia Sansom, L.P., and SP Plus Corporation seeking all available relief under the Americans with Disabilities Act for the failure to comply with the Act’s accessibility requirements. Plaintiff is seeking injunctive relief requiring the Defendants to remove the accessibility barriers which exist at their parking facility. The allegations contained herein are based on personal experience of the Plaintiff.

I. JURISDICTION

1. This action is brought pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.*
2. This civil controversy arises under the laws of the United States, and jurisdiction is conferred upon this District Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331.

II. VENUE

3. All actions complained of herein took place within the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
4. Venue is proper in this judicial District as provided by 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

III. PARTIES

5. Plaintiff is a 69 year-old adult male who currently resides in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
6. Plaintiff is a disabled individual.
7. The Philadelphia Board of Revision of Taxes lists Philadelphia Sansom, L.P. (“Defendant Sansom”) as the owner of 1616 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103, having a tax account number of 883423000.
8. According to the Pennsylvania Department of State, Defendant Sansom is a domestic limited partnership with an entity identification number of 3261714.
9. The Corporation Service Company is listed as the registered agent for Defendant Sansom at a business address of 2595 Interstate Drive Suite 103, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.
10. SP Plus Corporation (“Defendant SP”) is a foreign for-profit corporation registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State under entity identification number 750478.

11. The Corporation Service Company is listed as the registered agent for Defendant SP at a business address of 2595 Interstate Drive Suite 103, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.
12. Defendant Sansom and Defendant SP are collectively referred to herein as the “Defendants.”

IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Parking Facility

13. Defendant Sansom owns a public parking garage located at 1608-1634 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103 (the “Parking Facility”).
14. Upon information and belief, Defendant SP manages the Parking Facility for Defendant Sansom.
15. The Parking Facility offers parking to the general public.
16. For a fee, an individual can park a vehicle in the Parking Facility at the prevailing market rates.
17. The Parking Facility has multiple parking levels.
18. The Parking Facility has in excess of 100 (one-hundred) parking spaces.
19. The Parking Facility does not have any handicap-accessible parking spaces.
20. The Parking Facility is a self-park and valet parking garage.
21. The entrance to the Parking Facility is located on Sansom Street.
22. There are 2 (two) lanes to enter the parking garage.
23. There is 1 (one) lane to exit the parking garage.
24. None of the 3 (three) lanes have any marked access aisles that are outside of the vehicular traffic area. (See **Exhibit A**)

25. None of the 3 (three) lanes have any areas which are marked for passenger loading or unloading.
26. Upon entering the Parking Facility, the customer receives a ticket at the entrance gate.
27. Customers are required to leave their vehicle keys with the Parking Facility's parking attendants.
28. Customers can park their own vehicle. When there are few parking spaces remaining, a customer must temporarily park his or her vehicle in a right of way, and allow a parking attendant to park the vehicle.
29. To maximize the number of vehicles that can be parked in the garage, the Parking Facility's parking attendants frequently need to move customers' cars and double park them within the garage.
30. The Parking Facility's parking attendants will retrieve the parked vehicle for the customer.
31. Prior to leaving the Parking Facility, the customer must use the ticket to pay at a kiosk.

The Plaintiff

32. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.
33. The Plaintiff has difficulty walking.
34. The Plaintiff possesses a handicap parking placard issued by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
35. The Plaintiff's handicap parking placard permits him to park his vehicle in spaces designated as being handicap-accessible.
36. The Plaintiff's personal vehicle is a 2016 Toyota RAV 4.

- 37. The Plaintiff travels to Philadelphia frequently, and is often unable to find parking on the streets.
- 38. Plaintiff parks in a parking garage or parking lot when on-street parking is not available.
- 39. The Plaintiff has previously patronized the Parking Facility.
- 40. The Plaintiff would patronize the Parking Facility in the future, but is currently deterred because of the lack of any handicap-accessible loading zones.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

- 41. Congress enacted the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) in 1990 with the purpose of providing “[a] clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities” and “[c]lear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101(b).
- 42. The ADA provides a private right of action for injunctive relief to “any person who is being subject to discrimination on the basis of disability.” 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a)(1).
- 43. Under the ADA, a disability is defined as “(A) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual; (B) a record of such an impairment; or (C) being regarded as having such an impairment.” 42 U.S.C. § 12102(1).
- 44. Title III of the ADA provides that “[n]o individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182.

45. “It shall be discriminatory to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other individuals.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii).
46. A “public accommodation” are private entities whose operations affect commerce. See 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7).
47. In relevant part, Title III requires that the facilities of a public accommodation be “readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, except where an entity can demonstrate that it is structurally impracticable.” 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1).
48. Discrimination under the ADA includes the failure to remove architectural barriers where such removal is easily achievable. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).
49. “Readily achievable” means easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. 28 C.F.R. § 36.104.
50. Under Title III, places of public accommodation and commercial facilities that are newly constructed for occupancy beginning after January 26, 1992, must be “readily accessible to and usable by” individuals with disabilities. 28 C.F.R. § 36.401(a) (1).
51. “Facility” means all or any portion of buildings, structures, sites, complexes, equipment, rolling stock or other conveyances, roads, walks, passageways, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the building, property, structure, or equipment is located. 28 C.F.R. § 35.104.
52. Existing facilities whose construction predates January 26, 1992, must meet the lesser “barrier removal standard,” which requires the removal of barriers wherever it is

“easily accomplishable and able to be done without undue burden or expense.” 28

C.F.R. § 36.304(a).

53. March 15, 2012 was the compliance date for using the 2010 ADA Standards for program accessibility and barrier removal.¹

54. Under the ADA, businesses or privately owned facilities that provide goods or services to the public have a continuing obligation to remove accessibility barriers in existing parking lots when it is readily achievable to do so.

Accessible Parking under the ADA

55. The 1991 implementing rules and the 2010 revisions to the ADA set forth the following requirements for handicap-accessible parking spaces:²

Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility	Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1000	2% of the total number of parking spaces
More than 1001	20, plus 1 for each 100 parking spaces over 1000

¹ https://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm

² <https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADASTandards/2010ADASTandards.htm#pgfId-1010282>

56. The ADA requires that handicap-accessible parking spaces be at least 96 (ninety-six) inches wide. See Appendix A to Part 36- Standards for Accessible Design, 28 C.F.R. Part 36.³
57. The width of a parking space is measured from the center of each parking line bordering the parking space.⁴ (**See Exhibit B**)
58. The ADA requires that there be an access isle for the handicap-accessible parking space that is at least 60 (sixty) inches wide. (**See Exhibit B**)
59. The 2010 ADA regulations state that one in every six accessible spaces must be van accessible.⁵
60. Creating designated accessible handicap spaces is just one example of a barrier removal. 28 C.F.R. § 36.304(b)(18).
61. The restriping/repainting of the parking space borders is relatively inexpensive, and should be readily achievable and easily accomplishable.⁶

Valet Parking

62. The 1991 Standards of the ADA and the 2010 Standards of the ADA require parking facilities that provide valet parking services to have an accessible passenger loading zone.⁷
63. The 2010 ADA Standards require that valet facilities to also provide accessible parking spaces.⁸

³ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ <https://www.ada.gov/restripe.pdf>

⁷ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

⁸ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

64. Valet parking facilities must have an accessible passenger loading zone that has an access aisle that is a minimum of 60 (sixty) inches wide and extends the full length of the vehicle pull-up space. (See **Exhibit C**)
65. The 1991 ADA Standards and the 2010 ADA Standards both require a passenger loading zone to have a vehicle pull-up space that is a minimum of 96 (ninety-six) inches wide and a minimum of 20 (twenty) feet in length.⁹ (See **Exhibit C**)
66. The passenger loading zone must be located on an accessible route to the entrance of the facility.¹⁰

Accessible Routes under the ADA

67. Exterior accessible routes may include parking access aisles, curb ramps, crosswalks at vehicular ways, walks, ramps, and lifts.¹¹
68. This route, which must be at least three feet wide, must remain accessible and not be blocked.¹²
69. In parking facilities that do not serve a particular building, accessible parking shall be located on the shortest accessible route of travel to an accessible pedestrian entrance of the parking facility.¹³

⁹ https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/titleIII_2010/reg3_2010_appendix_b.htm

¹⁰ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.6.6>

¹¹ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#3>. MISCELLANEOUS

¹² Id.

¹³ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.3>

Signage and the ADA

70. The ADA standards require the use of the International Symbol of Accessibility (ISA) to identify parking spaces which are reserved for use by individuals with disabilities.¹⁴

(See Exhibit D)

71. Handicap-accessible parking spaces must be designed as “reserved” by a showing the ISA.

72. The ISA must be used to identify accessible passenger loading zones.

73. Directional signage must be used at inaccessible entrances to provide directions to the nearest accessible route.

74. Parking space identification signs shall be 60 (sixty) inches minimum above the finish floor or ground surface measured to the bottom of the sign.¹⁵

COUNT I –

FAILURE TO PROVIDE HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACES

75. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

76. Defendants failed to provide any parking spaces that are labeled as “handicap accessible” at the Parking Facility.

77. Defendants failed to provide any parking spots for cars that are 96 inches wide with an accompanying 60-inch wide adjacent access aisle.

78. Defendants failed to provide any parking spots for vans that have an accompanying 96-inch wide adjacent access aisle.

¹⁴ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/adaag#4.1>

¹⁵ <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/ada-standards/chapter-5-general-site-and-building-elements>

79. Defendants failed to provide any parking spaces that are labeled as “handicap accessible” by a van at the Parking Facility.
80. The Parking Facility’s failure to provide any handicap-accessible parking spaces has created an accessibility barrier for the Plaintiff, and other similarly situated disabled individuals.
81. Defendant Sansom is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility’s compliance with the ADA.
82. Defendant SP is responsible for ensuring the Parking Facility’s compliance with the ADA.
83. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance with the ADA’s parking requirements by designating some of the available non-handicap-accessible spaces as handicap-accessible spaces for cars.
84. The Defendant can remedy its non-compliance with the ADA’s parking requirements by designating some of the available non-handicap-accessible spaces as handicap-accessible spaces for vans.
85. Compliance with the handicap parking space requirements at the Parking Facility is readily achievable.
86. The Defendants’ failure to comply with the ADA has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the parking offered by the Parking Facility.
87. Plaintiff is adversely affected by the Parking Facility’s failure to comply with the ADA.
88. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendant as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II -

FAILURE TO PROVIDE A HANDICAP-ACCESSIBLE PASSENGER LOADING AREAS AND ACCESS LANES

89. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

90. The Parking Facility is a public accommodation as defined by ADA.

91. The Parking Facility is subject to Title III of the ADA.

92. The Plaintiff is a disabled individual within the meaning of the ADA.

93. The United States Supreme Court recognized the term "major life activities" includes walking. Bragdon v. Abbott, 524 U.S. 624, 638–39 (1998).

94. The major life activity that the constitutes the Plaintiff's disability is his difficulty walking distances.

95. The Parking Facility does not have any marked valet-area passenger loading zones.

96. The Parking Facility does not have a marked access aisle that is 60 (sixty) inches wide that is adjacent to the vehicle pull-up space for any valet parking.

97. The Parking Facility does not have a passenger loading zone with a vehicle pull-up space that is a minimum of 96 (ninety-six) inches wide and a minimum of 20 (twenty) feet in length.

98. The Parking Facility does not have any marked accessible routes leading to the outside of the garage.

99. The Parking Facility's failure to comply with the parking accessibility requirements of the ADA has created an accessibility barrier for the Plaintiff, and other similarly situated disabled individuals.

100. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance with the ADA's parking requirements by creating a marked access aisles and loading zones.

101. Compliance with the ADA's parking requirements at the Parking Facility is readily achievable.

102. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of the parking offered by the Parking Facility.

103. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by their failure to comply with the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendants as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III-

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE SIGNAGE REQUIRMENTS UNDER
THE ADA**

104. All of the preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

105. The Parking Facility does not have any directional signs for the nearest accessible route.

106. The Parking Facility does not have any handicap-accessible parking signs.

107. The Parking Facility does not have any van-accessible handicap-accessible parking signs.

108. The Parking Facility does not have any marked accessible routes.

109. The Defendants can remedy their non-compliance by reallocating existing parking spaces and painting border lines which conform to the dimensional requirements of the ADA for handicap-accessible parking spaces and access aisles.

110. The Defendants' failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements has denied the Plaintiff the full and equal enjoyment of parking offered by the Parking Facility.

111. The Defendants have discriminated against the Plaintiff by its failure to comply with the ADA handicap-accessible parking requirements.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks to injunctive relief to require the Defendants to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, together with costs and mandatory attorneys' fees under as provided by 42 U.S.C. § 12005, and such other legal and equitable relief from Defendant as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,
By: FJR5566

Franklin J. Rooks Jr., Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 309562
Jared A. Jacobson, Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 201382
Jacobson & Rooks, LLC
525 Route 73 North
Suite 104
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 874-8999
(856) 494-1707*fax*
Attorneys for Plaintiff, George Goodritz
Dated: May 24, 2017

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Franklin J. Rooks Jr., certify that I served Plaintiff's Complaint via the Court's ECF system.

By: FJR5566

Franklin J. Rooks Jr., Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 309562
Jared A. Jacobson, Esq.
PA Attorney ID: 201382
Jacobson & Rooks, LLC
525 Route 73 North
Suite 104
Marlton, NJ 08053
(856) 874-8999
(856) 494-1707*fax*
Attorneys for Plaintiff, George Goodritz
Dated: May 24, 2017

EXHIBIT A



EXHIBIT B

Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-parking#spaces>

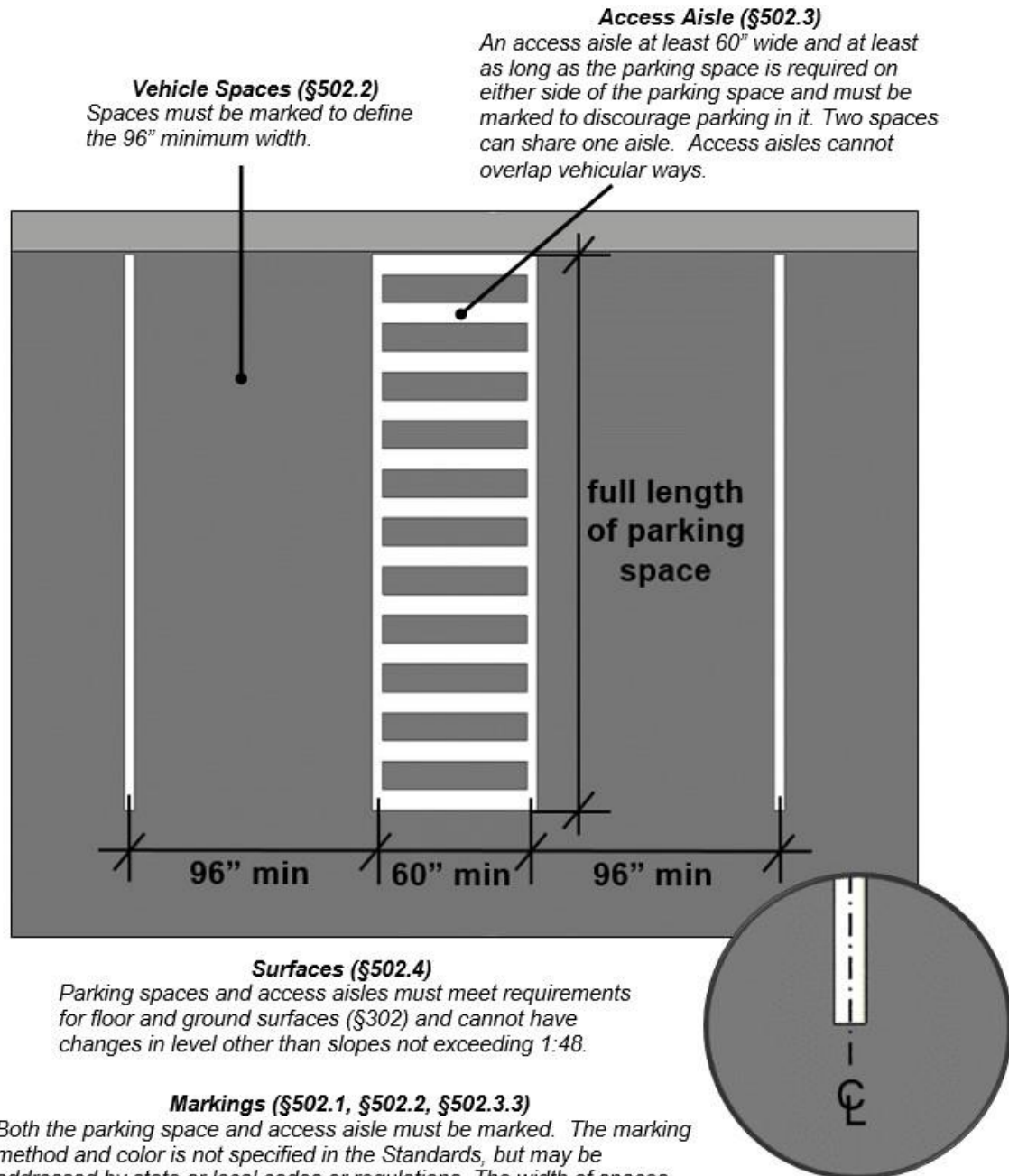


EXHIBIT C

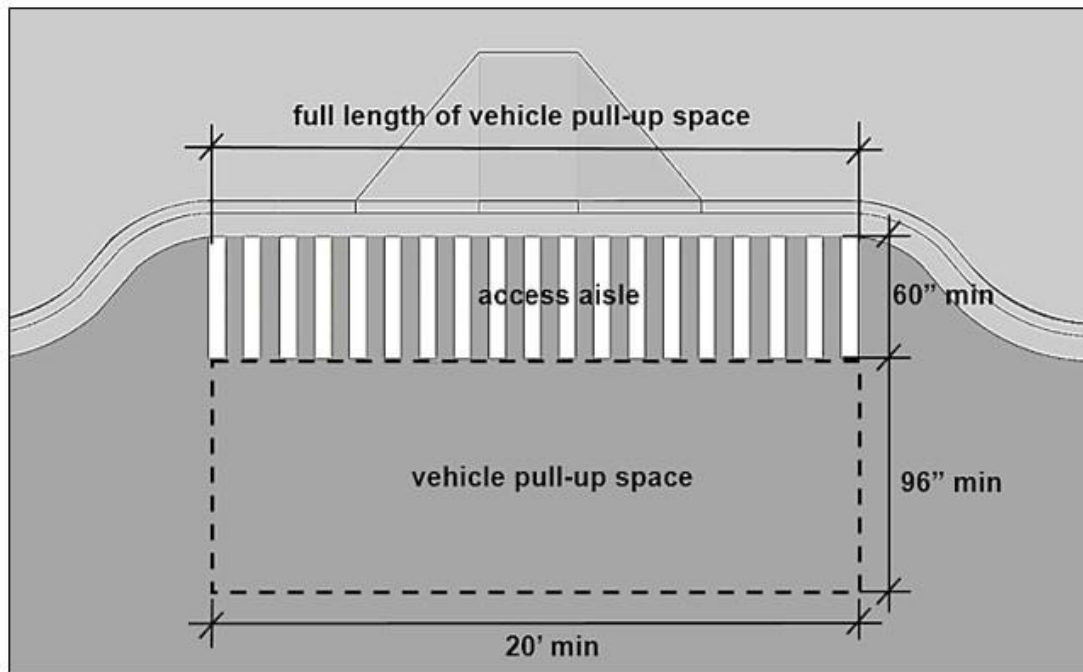
Source: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/guide-to-the-ada-standards/chapter-5-passenger-loading-zones>

Vehicle Pull-Up Space (§503.2)

The vehicle pull-up space must be at least 96" wide and at least 20' long.

Access Aisle (§503.3)

A marked access aisle is required next to, and at the same level as, the vehicle pull-up space. The access aisle must be at least 60" wide, extend the full length of the vehicle pull-up space, adjoin an accessible route, and cannot overlap vehicular ways. The marking method and color is not specified.



Surfaces (§503.4)

Vehicle pull-up spaces and access aisles must meet requirements for ground and floor surfaces (§302) and cannot have changes in level other than slopes not steeper than 1:48. Curb ramps cannot overlap access aisles or vehicle pull-up spaces.

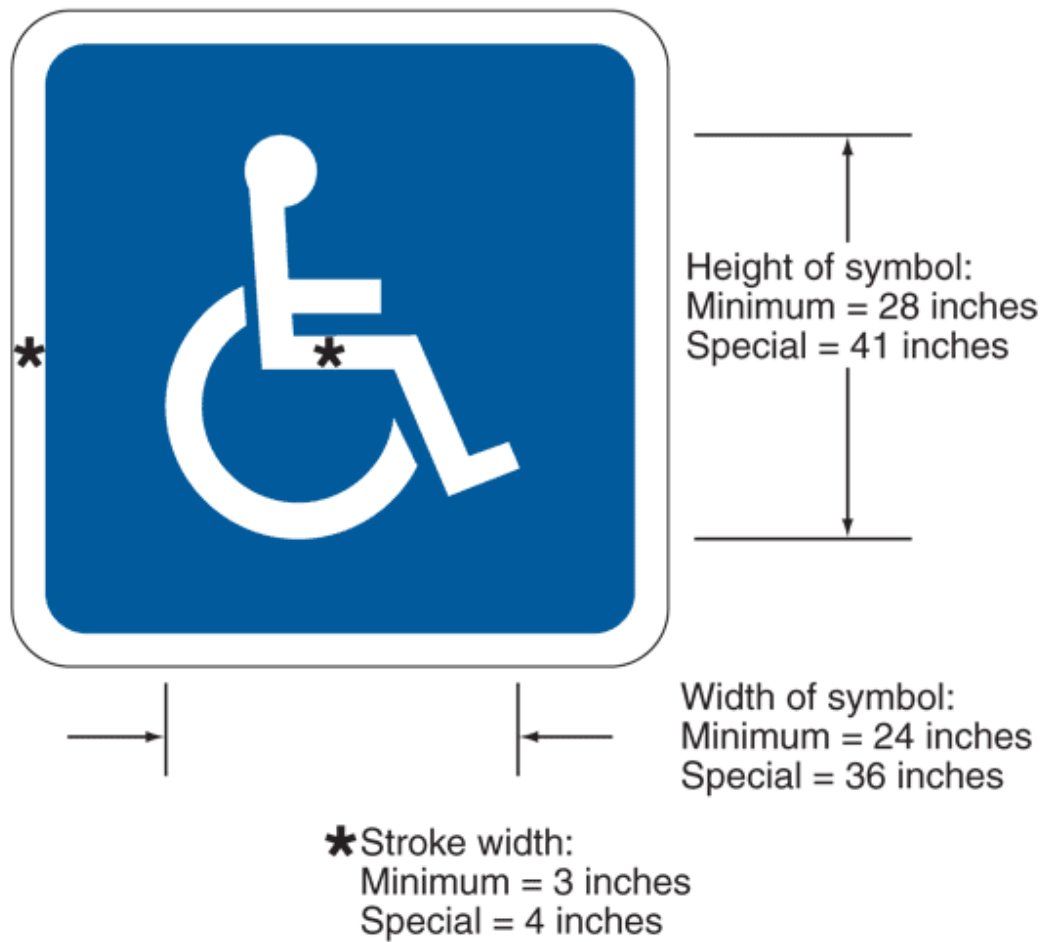
Vertical Clearance (§503.5)

A vertical clearance of 114" is required at the vehicle pull-up space and access aisle and along a vehicular route connecting them to a vehicle entrance and exit.

Accessible passenger loading zones are not required to be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility.

EXHIBIT D

Figure 3B-22. International Symbol of Accessibility Parking Space Marking



Note: Blue background and white border are optional
